

Inaugural Meeting of the Albany Tree Task Force
Wednesday, Jan 30, 2008
Albany Community Center
EOC Room, 1249 Marin Ave.
7:30 pm.

1. **Call to Order:** 7:30 pm. Task Force Members present: Richard Trout, Ed Adams, Suzanne Arca, Carl Wilmsen, John Nemeth, Bob Jones
Staff Present: Tony Wolcott
2. **Urban Forester Presentation.** Tony Wolcott gave a presentation regarding the current state of Albany's urban forest.
3. **Brown Act discussion.** The Task Force is subject to the Brown Act. Members had a round-table discussion about how this would affect communications and process, and the posting of the agenda.
4. **Generalized Discussion regarding structure and format.** The group discussed how agendas should be established. Some proposed a list of topics that could be discussed routinely. The group brainstormed the issues that were of highest concerns, noting that many of them were inter-related. Key topics included:

A. Current Situation

- 1) Exiting Conditions – what do we have?
- 2) Existing Procedures – how do trees get planted/removed and maintained?

B. Incentivizing Plantings

- 3) Direct city-funded plantings in a public space or spaces
- 4) Providing information to public about tree planting (cost, procedures, etc)
- 5) Liability Issue; Property owner's responsibility for sidewalk repair and maintenance, and personal and property liability to homeowners.
- 6) Reducing the cost of planting trees.

C. Tree Types

- 7) The existing list of approved trees
- 8) Tree templates for providing info about trees. Members discussed the information necessary for property owners to make informed decisions regarding choice of street tree, and for task force members to consider when revising the list.

D. Maintenance

- 9) How might this be changed in the future?
- 10) Volunteers?

E. Moving Forward

- 11) Formalizing Goals
- 12) Understanding Tony's Plan/Vision

- 13) Understanding everyone's Vision
- 14) Developing a Master Plan
5. **Vision Statement.** Members discussed crafting a vision statement, and were asked to develop a vision statement for discussion at the Feb. 13 meeting.
6. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm